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SHERIDAN CASE HEARING, AIM

Ruling Sought on Grand Jury Appearance

Whether or not National Broadcasting Co. investigator Walter Sheridan will have to appear before the Orleans Parish grand jury may be decided Monday in legal arguments before Criminal District Court Judge Bernard J. Bagert.

Sheridan was subpenaed to appear for Wednesday, presumably to testify about charges of bribery and intimidation made in a recent NBC documentary.

His appearance was stayed when defense attorneys that day filed a motion to quash the subpena and to have the district attorney's office recused as the jury's legal adviser in Sheridan's case.

Assistant District Attorney James L. Alcock said he will file an answer to the motion Friday and request an open hearing for Monday.

Following the NBC program Garrison charged Sheridan with public bribery of Baton Rouge insurance salesman Perry Raymond Russo, a major witness in Garrison's case against conspiracy defendant Clay L. Shaw.

As Sheridan was posting bond Tuesday on the charge in the criminal courts building the district attorney's office issued a grand jury subpena, which was served by Criminal Sheriff Louis A. Heyd Jr.

Sheridan's motion said that the subpena was issued "to coerce and intimidate" Sheridan, and charged that Garrison has used the power of his office against political enemies.

It also asked for a hearing to determine the legality of the current jury's makeup.

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